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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT) (51) International Patent Classification 6: WO 00/18886 (11) International Publication Number: C12N 5/04, 15/00, 15/09, 15/11, 15/29, **A1** (43) International Publication Date: 6 April 2000 (06.04.00) 15/63, 15/74, 15/81, 15/82, A01H 5/00 (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, PCT/US99/22363 (21) International Application Number: BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP. (22) International Filing Date: 24 September 1999 (24.09.99) KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, (30) Priority Data: UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, 25 September 1998 (25.09.98) US 60/101,814 MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): WISCONSIN CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION [US/US]; 614 Wal-GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). nut Street, Madison, WI 53705 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SPALDING, Edgar, P. Published [US/US]; 7417 South Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562 (US). With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the NOH, Bosl [US/US]; 308E Eagle Heights, Madison, WI 53705 (US). claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments. (74) Agents: KLANN, Ellen, M. et al.; Dann, Dorfman, Herrell and Skillman, Suite 720, 1601 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (US). (54) Title: XENOBIOTIC DETOXIFICATION GENE FROM PLANTS (57) Abstract A novel plant gene is provided, which is a member of the mdr family of genes encoding ABC transporters. The gene is inducible by NPPB, and is preferentially expressed in roots upon induction. The gene is useful for detoxification of certain xenobiotics to protect plants from the detrimental effects of such compounds. Also provided are plants that over-express and under-express this mdr gene.

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XENOBIOTIC DETOXIFICATION GENE FROM PLANTS

This application claims priority to U.S. 60/101,814, filed September 25, 1998, the entirety of which is incorporated by reference herein.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §202(c), it is acknowledged that the U.S. Government has certain rights in the invention described herein, which was made in part with funds from the National Science Foundation, Grant No. IBN-9416016.

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to the field of stress resistance in plants. In particular, the invention provides a novel gene from plants, which encodes an MDR-like ABC transporter, involved in detoxification of certain xenobiotics to protect plants from their detrimental effects.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Several publications are referenced in this application to describe the state of the art to which the invention pertains. Each of these publications is incorporated by reference herein.

Environmental stress is one of the most important limitations on plant productivity, growth and survival. An ever-increasing source of environmental stress to plants is the stress caused by environmental pollutants in the soil, water and atmosphere. Such pollutants include herbicides, pesticides and related agronomic products, as well as organic and inorganic waste material from industry and other sources. Other toxic agents that threaten the survival of plants include various toxins produced by ephiphytic or soilborne

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microorganisms, such as fungi and bacteria.

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In order to survive in toxic environments, plants must have mechanisms to detoxify xenobiotics, heavy metals and other toxic compounds. This generally involves modification of the toxic compound and subsequent excretion into the vacuole or apoplastic space. Recently, certain ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters have been identified in plants, which appear to be involved in the detoxification process.

The ABC transporter family is very large, with representatives existing in many different classes of organisms. Two well studied groups of ABC transporters, encoded by mdr and mrp genes, respectively, are associated with the multi-drug resistance phenomenon observed in mammalian tumor cells. The mdr genes encode a family of P-glycoproteins that mediate the energy-dependent efflux of certain lipophilic drugs from cells. The mrp genes encode a family of transporters that mediate the extrusion of a variety of organic compounds after their conjugation with glutathione. YCF1, the yeast homolog of mrp, encodes a protein capable of glutathione-mediated detoxification of heavy metals.

Homologs of mrp and mdr genes have been identified in plant species. In Arabidopsis thaliana,

25 the glutathione-conjugate transporter encoded by the mrp homolog is located in the vacuolar membrane and is responsible for sequestration of xenobiotics in the central vacuole (Tommasini et al., FEBS Lett. 411: 206-210, 1997; Li et al., Plant Physiol. 107: 1257-1268,

30 1995). An mdr-like gene (atpgp1) has also been identified in A. thaliana, which encodes a putative P-glycoprotein homolog. The atpgp1 gene was found to share significant sequence homology and structural organization with human mdr genes, and was expressed with particular

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abundance in inflorescence axes (Dudler & Hertig, J. Biol. Chem. <u>267</u>: 5882-5888, 1992). Other MDR homologs have been found in potato (Wang et al., Plant Mol. Biol. <u>31</u>: 683, 1996) and barley (Davies et al., Gene <u>199</u>: 195, 1997).

The aforementioned mrp and mdr plant homologs were identified as a result of an effort to understand the molecular basis for development in plants of cross-resistance to herbicides of unrelated classes. However, these transporters are likely to serve the more general role in plants of sequestering, secreting, or otherwise detoxifying various organic and inorganic xenobiotics. Accordingly, it will constitute an advance in the art of plant genetic engineering of stress tolerance to identify and characterize other members of this class of transporters in plants.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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In accordance with the present invention, a new plant mdr homolog has been identified. Unlike the previously identified plant mdr homologs, this new gene is inducible by a class of compounds known to inhibit chloride ion channels.

According to one aspect of the invention, a nucleic acid isolated from a plant is provided, which encodes a p-glycoprotein that is inducible by exposure of the plant to NPPB. The isolated nucleic acid is preferentially expressed in plant roots upon exposure of the plant to NPPB. In a preferred embodiment, the plant from which the nucleic acid is isolated is selected from the group consisting of Brassica napus and Arabidopsis thaliana and is 3850-4150 nucleotides in length. In a more preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid has the restriction sites shown in Figure 4 for at least three

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restriction enzymes. In particularly preferred embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having SEQ ID NO:2. In an exemplary embodiment, the nucleic acid is a cDNA comprising the coding region of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10.

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According to another aspect of the invention is an expression cassette that comprises a plPAC gene operably linked to a promoter, and in a more preferred embodiment the plPAC gene is from Arabidopsis. In preferred embodiments, the expression cassette comprises the cauliflower mosaic virus 35S promoter, and part of all of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10. Further included in this aspect is a vector comprising the expression cassette and a method for producing transgenic plants with the expression cassette and vector.

Another aspect of the invention are transgenic cells and plants containing the nucleic acids of the invention. In one preferred embodiment, the nucleic acids are be in the aforementioned expression cassette. Further included in this aspect are reporductive units from the transgenic plant.

According to another aspect of the invention, an isolated nucleic acid molecule is provided, which has a sequence selected from the group consisting of: a) SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:10; b) a nucleic acid sequence that is at least about 60% homologous to the coding regions of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10; c) a sequence hybridizing with SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10 at moderate stringency; d) a sequence encoding part or all of a polypeptide having SEQ ID NO:2; e) a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least about 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:2; f) a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least about 80% similar to SEQ ID NO:2; g) a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that

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is at least about 40% similar to residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2; and h) a sequence hybridizing at moderate stringency to a sequence encoding residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2. A polypeptide produced by expression of the above listed sequences is also provided.

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According to another aspect of the invention, an isolated plant p-glycoprotein, which is inducible upon exposure of the plant to NPPB, is provided. The polypeptide preferably confers upon a cell in which it is found resistance to Rhodamine 6G. The polypeptide is preferentially produced in roots upon the exposure to the The polypeptide is preferrably from Brassica napus or Arabidopsis thaliana. In most preferred embodiments, the polypeptide has a sequence that is a) an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% similar to SEQ ID NO:2; b) an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:2; c) an amino acid sequence that is at least 40% similar to residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2; and d) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid sequence hybridizing at moderate stringency to a amino acid sequence encoding residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2.

According to other aspects of the invention,
25 antibodies immunologically specific for the polypeptides
of the invention are provided, that immunologically
specific to any of the polypeptides, of polypeptide
encoded by the nucleic acids of the invention. In a
preferred embodiment, the antibody is immunospecific to
30 residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2.

According to another aspect of the invention, a plant p-glycoprotein gene promoter, which is inducible by NPPB, is also provided. In a preferred embodiment, the promoter is part or all of residues 1-3429 of SEQ ID

NO:10.

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According to another aspect of the invention, plants that have reduces levels of plPAC protein are provided. In a preferred embodiment, these plants have mutations in the plPAC gene, and in a particularly preferred embodiment, the plPAC gene is mutated due to the insertion of a T-DNA. Also provided with this aspect is a method for selecting plants with mutations in plPAC using SEQ ID NOS:11-14 as PCR primers.

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will be described in greater detail in the description and examples set forth below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 Figure 1. Amino acid sequence lineup of ATPAC deduced amino acid sequence and the amino acid sequences of related mammalian and plant genes. The lineup shows the ATPAC deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) compared with (1) hmdrl (SEQ ID NO:3); (2) mmdrl (SEQ ID NO:4); (3) hmdrl (SEQ ID NO:5); (4) mmdrl (SEQ ID NO:6); (5) atpgpl (SEQ ID NO:7); and (6) atpgpl (SEQ ID NO:8). A consensus sequence (SEQ ID NO: 9) is also shown.

Figure 2. Graph depicting the effect of rhodamine 6G on the growth rate of cells transformed with and expressing ATPAC as compared with control cells not containing ATPAC.

Figure 3. Restriction map of genomic clone of ATPAC, SEQ ID NO:10.

Figure 4. Restriction map of cDNA clone of 30 ATPAC, SEQ ID NO:1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

I. <u>Definitions</u>

Various terms relating to the biological

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with default parameters, may be used to determine the level of identity and similarity between nucleic acid sequences and amino acid sequences.

The term "substantially the same" refers to nucleic acid or amino acid sequences having sequence variation that do not materially affect the nature of the protein (i.e. the structure, thermostability characteristics and/or biological activity of the protein). With particular reference to nucleic acid sequences, the term "substantially the same" is intended to refer to the coding region and to conserved sequences governing expression, and refers primarily to degenerate codons encoding the same amino acid, or alternate codons encoding conservative substitute amino acids in the encoded polypeptide. With reference to amino acid sequences, the term "substantially the same" refers generally to conservative substitutions and/or variations in regions of the polypeptide not involved in determination of structure or function.

The terms "percent identical" and "percent similar" are also used herein in comparisons among amino acid and nucleic acid sequences. When referring to amino acid sequences, "percent identical" refers to the percent of the amino acids of the subject amino acid sequence that have been matched to identical amino acids in the compared amino acid sequence by a sequence analysis program. "Percent similar" refers to the percent of the amino acids of the subject amino acid sequence that have been matched to identical or conserved amino acids. Conserved amino acids are those which differ in structure but are similar in physical properties such that the exchange of one for another would not appreciably change the tertiary structure of the resulting protein. Conservative substitutions are defined in Taylor (1986,

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J. Theor. Biol. 119:205). When referring to nucleic acid molecules, "percent identical" refers to the percent of the nucleotides of the subject nucleic acid sequence that have been matched to identical nucleotides by a sequence analysis program.

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With respect to protein, the term "isolated protein" or "isolated and purified protein" is sometimes used herein. This term refers primarily to a protein produced by expression of an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention. Alternatively, this term may refer to a protein which has been sufficiently separated from other proteins with which it would naturally be associated, so as to exist in "substantially pure" form.

The term "substantially pure" refers to a

preparation comprising at least 50-60% by weight the
compound of interest (e.g., nucleic acid,
oligonucleotide, protein, etc.). More preferably, the
preparation comprises at least 75% by weight, and most
preferably 90-99% by weight, the compound of interest.

Purity is measured by methods appropriate for the
compound of interest (e.g. chromatographic methods,
agarose or polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, HPLC
analysis, and the like).

With respect to antibodies of the invention, the term "immunologically specific" refers to antibodies that bind to one or more epitopes of a protein of interest, but which do not substantially recognize and bind other molecules in a sample containing a mixed population of antigenic biological molecules.

With respect to oligonucleotides, the term
"specifically hybridizing" refers to the association
between two single-stranded nucleotide molecules of
sufficiently complementary sequence to permit such
hybridization under pre-determined conditions generally

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used in the art (sometimes termed "substantially complementary"). In particular, the term refers to hybridization of an oligonucleotide with a substantially complementary sequence contained within a single-stranded DNA or RNA molecule of the invention, to the substantial exclusion of hybridization of the oligonucleotide with single-stranded nucleic acids of non-complementary sequence.

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The term "expression cassette", as used herein, comprises 5' and 3' regulatory regions operably linked to a coding sequence. The coding sequence may be in the sense or antisense orientation with respect to the 5' regulatory region.

The term "promoter region" refers to the 5' regulatory regions of a gene.

The term "reporter gene" refers to genetic sequences which may be operably linked to a promoter region forming a transgene, such that expression of the reporter gene coding region is regulated by the promoter and expression of the transgene is readily assayed.

The term "selectable marker gene" refers to a gene product that when expressed confers a selectable phenotype, such as antibiotic resistance, on a transformed cell or plant.

The term "operably linked" means that the regulatory sequences necessary for expression of the coding sequence are placed in the DNA molecule in the appropriate positions relative to the coding sequence so as to effect expression of the coding sequence. This same definition is sometimes applied to the arrangement of coding sequences and transcription control elements (e.g. promoters, enhancers, and termination elements) in an expression vector.

The term "DNA construct" refers to genetic

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sequence used to transform plants and generate progeny transgenic plants. These constructs may be administered to plants in a viral or plasmid vector. Other methods of delivery such as Agrobacterium T-DNA mediated transformation and transformation using the biolistic 5 process are also contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention. The transforming DNA may be prepared according to standard protocols such as those set forth in "Current Protocols in Molecular Biology", 10 eds. Frederick M. Ausubel et al., John Wiley & Sons, 1995.

The term "xenobiotic" refers to foreign chemicals or agents not produced or naturally found in the organism. The term is commonly used in reference to toxic or otherwise detrimental foreign chemicals, such as organic pollutants or heavy metals.

Description of plPAC II. and its Encoded Polyeptide

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In accordance with the present invention, a nucleic acid encoding a novel ATP-binding-cassette (ABC) transporter has been isolated and cloned from plants. The nucleic acid is referred to herein as plPAC.

A cDNA clone of the plPAC from Arabidopsis thaliana, an exemplary plPAC of the invention, is described in detail herein and its nucleotide sequence is set forth in Example 1 as SEQ ID NO:1. This nucleic acid molecule is referred to as "ATPAC". It is 36% identical and 51% similar to human mdr1 across the entire sequence. 30 It is 51% identical to the atpgp1 gene reported by Dudler & Hertig (1997, supra) and 50% identical to atpgp2, a close homolog of atpgp1, published in the Genbank database. ATPAC protein is 65% similar to atpgp1 and 35 atpgp2 proteins.

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A partial clone of a plPAC of the invention was originally isolated from Brassica napus via differential expression screening of plants grown in the presence or absence of the chloride channel blocker, 5-nitro-2-(3-phenylpropylamino) benzoic acid (NPPB). A 0.5 kb gene fragment was identified, which had been up-regulated in response to NPPB treatment. This cDNA fragment was used to screen an Arabidopsis cDNA library, from which the complete ATPAC clone was isolated. The isolation and characterization of ATPAC is described in Example 1.

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A genomic clone of ATPAC (SEQ ID NO:10) has also been isolated from a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) library of the Arabidopsis genome (BAC clone IGF F3J22, obtained from the Arabidopsis stock center, Ohio State University). A 7 kb fragment containing part of ATPAC and additional 5' regulatory sequences was subcloned into a plasmid vector (pBluescript). A restriction map of ATPAC is found in Fig. 3. The corresponding cDNA clone of ATPAC is found in SEQ ID NO:1 and its restriction map is Fig. 4.

Among the unique features of this nucleic acid molecule as compared with other mdr-like genes from plants are its inducibility by certain compounds, including NPPB and herbicides, and its preferential expression in roots. The promoter regulatory region of ATPAC comprises residues 1-3429 of SEQ ID NO:10.

Although the ATPAC cDNA clone from Arabidopsis thaliana is described and exemplified herein, this invention is intended to encompass nucleic acid sequences and proteins from other plant species that are sufficiently similar to be used instead of ATPAC nucleic acid and proteins for the purposes described below. These include, but are not limited to, allelic variants and natural mutants of SEQ ID NO:1, which are likely to

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be found in different species of plants or varieties of Arabidopsis.

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Because such variants are expected to possess certain differences in nucleotide and amino acid sequence, this invention provides an isolated plPAC nucleic acid molecule having at least about 60% (preferably 70% and more preferably over 80%) sequence homology in the coding regions with the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10 (and, most preferably, specifically comprising the coding region of SEQ ID NO:1). Also provided are nucleic acids that encode a polypeptide that is at least about 40% (preferably 50% and most preferably 60%) similar to residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2. Also provided are nucleic acids that hybridize to the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:10, or nucleic acids encoding the regions of residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2, preferably under moderate stringency (more preferably, high stringency, and most preferably, very high stringency).

In other preferred embodiments, the nucleic acids have a restriction digest map that is identical for at least 3 enzymes (more preferably 6 enzymes and most preferably 9 enzymes) to the maps shown in Figs. 3 or 4. In another preferred embodiment, the nucleic acids have a restriction digest map identical to those shown in Fig. 3 for enzymes XhoI, XcmI and SpeI (preferably additionally SacI, PacI and BsaI, and most preferably additionally AclI, BanI and SnaBI). In another preferred embodiment, the nucleic acids have a restriction digest map identical to those shown in Fig. 4 for enzymes XbaI, TatI and NciI (preferably additionally DraI, BsmI and BclI, and most preferably additionally DraI, BsmI and BclI, and most preferably additionally AccI, BsgI and TliI). The nucleic acids of the invention are at least 20 nucleic

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acids in length (preferably at least 50 nucleic acids and most preferably at least 100 nucleic acids).

In accordance with the invention, novel plPAC genes from two plant species, Brassica napus and Arabidopsis thaliana, are presented. This constitutes the first description of this unique p-glycoprotein in plants. Indeed, the closest known protein sequence, also. from Arabidopsis, is only 65% identical suggesting that the ATPAC gene is novel and is expected to have novel properties. The isolation of two plPAC genes from different species enables the isolation of further plPAC genes from other plant species. Isolated nucleic acids that are plPAC genes from any plant species are considered part of the instant invention. In particular, the nucleic acids of other pIPAC genes can be isolated using sequences of ATPAC that distinguish plPAC genes from other plant mdr genes according to methods that are well known to those in the art of gene isolation. particular, sequences that encode residues 1-76, 613-669 and 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2 can be used. In a preferred embodiment, the plPAC gene is from any higher plant species (more preferred from a dicot species, and most preferred from a species in Brassicaceae (or Cruciferae)).

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This invention also provides isolated polypeptide products of the open reading frames of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10, having at least about 70% (preferably 80% and most preferably 90%) sequence identity, or at least about 80% similarity (preferably 90% and more preferably 95%) with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. In another embodiment, the polypeptides of the invention are at least about 40% identical (preferably 50%, and most preferably 60%) to the regions of residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Because of the natural sequence variation likely to exist among plPAC genes, one skilled in the art would expect to find up to about 30-40% nucleotide sequence variation, while still maintaining the unique properties of the plPAC gene and encoded polypeptide of the present invention. Such an expectation is due in part to the degeneracy of the genetic code, as well as to the known evolutionary success of conservative amino acid sequence variations, which do not appreciably alter the nature of the encoded protein. Accordingly, such variants are considered substantially the same as one another and are included within the scope of the present invention.

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Also provided are transgenic plants transformed with part or all of the nucleic acids of the invention. Transgenic plants that over-express a plPAC coding 15 sequence are one embodiment of this aspect of the invention. Example 3 provides for one prototype of such a plant. In a preferred embodiment, the ATPAC gene is used, and in a most preferred embodiment SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10 is used. The plPAC gene may be placed under 20 a powerful constitutive promoter, such as the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (CaMV) 35S promoter or the figwort mosaic virus 35S promoter. In a preferred embodiment, the 35SCaMV promoter is used. Transgenic plants expressing 25 the pIPAC gene under an inducible promoter (either its own promoter or a heterologous promoter) are also contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention. Inducible plant promoters include the tetracycline repressor/operator controlled promoter. 30 a preferred embodiment, a native plPAC promoter is used, and in a most preferred embodiment, residues 1-3429 of SEQ ID NO:10 is used. Plant species that are contemplated for overexpression of a pIPAC coding sequence include, but are not limited to, soybean.

In another embodiment, overexpression of plPAC is induced to generate a co-suppression effect. This excess expression serves to promote down-regulation of both endogenous and exogenous plPAC genes.

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In some instances, it may be desirable to downregulate or inhibit expression of endogenous plPAC in plants possessing the gene. Accordingly, plPAC nucleic acid molecules, or fragments thereof, may also be utilized to control the production of plPAC-encoded Pglycoproteins. In one embodiment, full-length plPAC antisense molecules or antisense oligonucleotides, targeted to specific regions of plPAC-encoded RNA that are critical for translation, are used. antisense molecules to decrease expression levels of a pre-determined gene is known in the art. In a preferred embodiment, antisense molecules are provided in situ by transforming plant cells with a DNA construct which, upon transcription, produces the antisense sequences. Such constructs can be designed to produce full-length or partial antisense sequences. One example of antisense plPAC transgenic plants is given in Example 3.

In another embodiment, knock-out plants are obtained by screening a T-DNA mutagenized plant population for insertions in the plPAC gene (see Krysan et al., 1996, PNAS 93:8145). One example of this embodiment of the invention is found in Example 3. Optionally, transgenic plants can be created containing mutations in the region encoding the active site of plPAC. These last two embodiments are preferred over the use of anti-sense constructs due to the high homology among P-glycoproteins.

The promoter of ATPAC is also provided in accordance with the invention. This promoter has the useful properties of root expression and inducability by

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NPPB. The prototypic example of this aspect of the invention is residues 1-3429 of SEQ ID NO:10. It is anticipated that plPAC genes from other plant species will likewise exhibit the aforementioned useful 5 properties. As these promoter regions can easily be isolated from the plPAC genes that are provided with the invention, all plant plPAC gene promoters are provided with the invention. The nucleic acids of the invention therefore include a nucleic acid molecule that is at 10 least about 70% identical (preferably 80% and most preferably 90%) to the residues 1-3429 of SEQ ID NO:10. Also provided are nucleic acids that hybridize to the nucleic acid residues 1-3429 of SEQ ID NO:10 preferably under moderate stringency (more preferably, high 15 stringency, and most preferably, very high stringency).

The present invention also provides antibodies capable of immuno-specifically binding to polypeptides of the invention. Polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies directed toward any of the peptides encoded by plPAC may be prepared according to standard methods. Monoclonal antibodies may be prepared according to general methods of Köhler and Milstein, following standard protocols. In a preferred embodiment, antibodies are prepared, which react immuno-specifically with various epitopes of the plPAC-encoded polypeptides. In a preferred embodiment, the antibodies are immunologically specific to the polypeptide of residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2.

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The following description sets forth the

general procedures involved in practicing the present invention. To the extent that specific materials are mentioned, it is merely for purposes of illustration and is not intended to limit the invention. Unless otherwise specified, general cloning procedures, such as those set

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forth in Sambrook et al., <u>Molecular Cloning</u>, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1989) (hereinafter "Sambrook et al.") or Ausubel et al. (eds) <u>Current Protocols in Molecular Biology</u>, John Wiley & Sons (1997) (hereinafter "Ausubel et al.") are used.

III. Preparation of *PlPAC* Nucleic Acid Molecules, encoded Polypeptides, Antibodies Specific for the <u>Polypeptides and Transgenic Plants</u>

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1. Nucleic Acid Molecules

PIPAC nucleic acid molecules of the invention may be prepared by two general methods: (1) they may be synthesized from appropriate nucleotide triphosphates, or (2) they may be isolated from biological sources. Both methods utilize protocols well known in the art.

The availability of nucleotide sequence information, such as the cDNA having SEQ ID NO:1, enables preparation of an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention by oligonucleotide synthesis. Synthetic oligonucleotides may be prepared by the phosphoramadite method employed in the Applied Biosystems 38A DNA Synthesizer or similar devices. The resultant construct may be purified according to methods known in the art, such as high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). Long, double-stranded polynucleotides, such as a DNA molecule of the present invention, must be synthesized in stages, due to the size limitations inherent in current oligonucleotide synthetic methods. Thus, for example, a long double-stranded molecule may be synthesized as several smaller segments of appropriate complementarity. Complementary segments thus produced may be annealed such that each segment possesses appropriate cohesive termini for attachment of an adjacent segment. Adjacent segments may be ligated by annealing cohesive termini in the

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presence of DNA ligase to construct an entire long double-stranded molecule. A synthetic DNA molecule so constructed may then be cloned and amplified in an appropriate vector.

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PIPAC genes also may be isolated from appropriate biological sources using methods known in the art. In fact, the ATPAC clone was isolated from an Arabidopsis cDNA library using a partial clone obtained from Brassica napus. In alternative embodiments, genomic clones of plPAC may be isolated.

In accordance with the present invention, nucleic acids having the appropriate level sequence homology with part or all the coding regions of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10 may be identified by using 15 hybridization and washing conditions of appropriate stringency. For example, hybridizations may be performed, according to the method of Sambrook et al., using a hybridization solution comprising: 5X SSC, 5X Denhardt's reagent, 1.0% SDS, 100 μg/ml denatured, 20 fragmented salmon sperm DNA, 0.05% sodium pyrophosphate and up to 50% formamide. Hybridization is carried out at 37-42°C for at least six hours. Following hybridization, filters are washed as follows: (1) 5 minutes at room temperature in 2X SSC and 1% SDS; (2) 15 minutes at room 25 temperature in 2X SSC and 0.1% SDS; (3) 30 minutes-1 hour at 37°C in 2X SSC and 0.1% SDS; (4) 2 hours at 45-55°in 2X SSC and 0.1% SDS, changing the solution every 30 minutes.

One common formula for calculating the

30 stringency conditions required to achieve hybridization
between nucleic acid molecules of a specified sequence
homology (Sambrook et al., 1989):

 $T_m = 81.5$ °C + 16.6Log [Na+] + 0.41(% G+C) - 0.63 (% formamide) - 600/#bp in duplex

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As an illustration of the above formula, using [N+] = [0.368] and 50% formamide, with GC content of 42% and an average probe size of 200 bases, the T_m is 57°C. The T_m of a DNA duplex decreases by 1 - 1.5°C with every 1% decrease in homology. Thus, targets with greater than about 75% sequence identity would be observed using a hybridization temperature of 42°C.

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The stringency of the hybridization and wash depend primarily on the salt concentration and 10 temperature of the solutions. In general, to maximize the rate of annealing of the probe with its target, the hybridization is usually carried out at salt and temperature conditions that are 20-25°C below the calculated T_m of the of the hybrid. Wash conditions should be as stringent as possible for the degree of 15 identity of the probe for the target. In general, wash conditions are selected to be approximately 12-20°C below the T_m of the hybrid. In regards to the nucleic acids of the current invention, a moderate stringency 20 hybridization is defined as hybridization in 6X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS and 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 42°C, and wash in 2X SSC and 0.5% SDS at 55°C for 15 minutes. A high stringency hybridization is defined as hybridization in 6X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS and 100 $\mu g/ml$ denatured salmon sperm 25 DNA at 42°C, and wash in 1X SSC and 0.5% SDS at 65°C for 15 minutes. A very high stringency hybridization is defined as hybridization in 6X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS and 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 42°C, and wash in 0.1% SSC and 0.5% SDS at 65°C 30 for 15 minutes.

Nucleic acids of the present invention may be maintained as DNA in any convenient cloning vector. In a preferred embodiment, clones are maintained in plasmid

cloning/expression vector, such as pGEM-T (Promega Biotech, Madison, WI) or pBluescript (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA), either of which is propagated in a suitable E. coli host cell.

PIPAC nucleic acid molecules of the invention include cDNA, genomic DNA, RNA, and fragments thereof which may be single- or double-stranded. Thus, this invention provides oligonucleotides (sense or antisense strands of DNA or RNA) having sequences capable of hybridizing with at least one sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of the present invention, such as selected segments of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10. Such oligonucleotides are useful as probes for detecting plPAC genes or mRNA in test samples, e.g. by PCR amplification, mapping of genes or for the positive or negative regulation of expression of plPAC genes at or before translation of the mRNA into proteins.

The pIPAC promoter is also expected to be useful in connection with the present invention, inasmuch as it is inducible in plants upon exposure to anion channel blockers. As mentioned above, seven-kilobase fragment of genomic DNA has been isolated, which contains part or all of the pIPAC promoter from Arabidopsis thaliana. This promoter can be used in chimeric gene constructs to facilitate inducible expression of any coding sequence of interest, upon exposure to NPPB or similar-acting compounds.

2. Proteins

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Polypeptides encoded by plPAC nucleic acids of the invention may be prepared in a variety of ways, according to known methods. If produced in situ the polypeptides may be purified from appropriate sources, e.g., plant roots or other plant parts.

Alternatively, the availability of nucleic acid molecules encoding the polypeptides enables production of the proteins using in vitro expression methods known in the art. For example, a cDNA or gene may be cloned into an appropriate in vitro transcription vector, such a pSP64 or pSP65 for in vitro transcription, followed by cell-free translation in a suitable cell-free translation system, such as wheat germ or rabbit reticulocytes. In vitro transcription and translation systems are commercially available, e.g., from Promega Biotech, Madison, Wisconsin or BRL, Rockville, Maryland.

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According to a preferred embodiment, larger quantities of plPAC-encoded polypeptide may be produced by expression in a suitable procaryotic or eucaryotic system. For example, part or all of a DNA molecule, such as the cDNA having SEQ ID NO:1, may be inserted into a plasmid vector adapted for expression in a bacterial cell (such as E. coli) or a yeast cell (such as Saccharomyces cerevisiae), or into a baculovirus vector for expression in an insect cell. Such vectors comprise the regulatory elements necessary for expression of the DNA in the host cell, positioned in such a manner as to permit expression of the DNA in the host cell. Such regulatory elements required for expression include promoter sequences, transcription initiation sequences and, optionally, enhancer sequences.

The plPAC polypeptide produced by gene expression in a recombinant procaryotic or eucyarotic system may be purified according to methods known in the art. In a preferred embodiment, a commercially available expression/secretion system can be used, whereby the recombinant protein is expressed and thereafter secreted from the host cell, to be easily purified from the surrounding medium. If expression/secretion vectors are

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not used, an alternative approach involves purifying the recombinant protein by affinity separation, such as by immunological interaction with antibodies that bind specifically to the recombinant protein. Such methods are commonly used by skilled practitioners.

The p1PAC-encoded polypeptides of the invention, prepared by the aforementioned methods, may be analyzed according to standard procedures.

C. Transgenic Plants

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Transgenic plants expressing the plPAC gene can be generated using standard plant transformation methods known to those skilled in the art. These include, but are not limited to, Agrobacterium vectors, PEG treatment of protoplasts, biolistic DNA delivery, UV laser 15 microbeam, gemini virus vectors, calcium phosphate treatment of protoplasts, electroporation of isolated protoplasts, agitation of cell suspensions with microbeads coated with the transforming DNA, direct DNA uptake, liposome-mediated DNA uptake, and the like. 20 methods have been published in the art. See, e.g., Methods for Plant Molecular Biology (Weissbach & Weissbach, eds., 1988); Methods in Plant Molecular Biology (Schuler & Zielinski, eds., 1989); Plant Molecular Biology Manual (Gelvin, Schilperoort, Verma, 25 eds., 1993); and Methods in Plant Molecular Biology - A Laboratory Manual (Maliga, Klessig, Cashmore, Gruissem & Varner, eds., 1994).

The method of transformation depends upon the plant to be transformed. The biolistic DNA delivery method is useful for nuclear transformation. In another embodiment of the invention, Agrobacterium vectors are used to advantage for efficient transformation of plant nuclei.

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In a preferred embodiment, the gene is introduced into plant nuclei in Agrobacterium binary vectors. Such vectors include, but are not limited to, BIN19 (Bevan, 1984, Nucleic Acid Res 12: 8711-8721) and derivatives thereof, the pBI vector series (Jefferson et al., 1987, PNAS 83:8447-51), and binary vectors pGA482 and pGA492 (An, 1986) and others (for review, see An, 1995, Methods Mol Biol 44:47-58). In preferred embodiments, the pPZP211 vector (Hajdukiewicz et al., 1994, PMB 25:989-994) or PCGN7366 (Calgene, CA) are used. DNA constructs for transforming a selected plant comprise a coding sequence of interest operably linked to appropriate 5' (e.g., promoters and translational regulatory sequences) and 3' regulatory sequences (e.g., terminators).

Using an Agrobacterium binary vector system for transformation, the plPAC coding region, under control of a constitutive or inducible promoter as described above, is linked to a nuclear drug resistance marker, such as kanamycin resistance. Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of plant nuclei is accomplished according to the following procedure:

- (1) the gene is inserted into the selected Agrobacterium binary vector;
- 25 (2) transformation is accomplished by cocultivation of plant tissue (e.g., leaf discs) with a
 suspension of recombinant Agrobacterium, followed by
 incubation (e.g., two days) on growth medium in the
 absence of the drug used as the selective medium (see,
 30 e.g., Horsch et al. 1985, Cold Spring Harb Symp Quant
 Biol. 50:433-7);
 - (3) plant tissue is then transferred onto the selective medium to identify transformed tissue; and
 - (4) identified transformants are regenerated

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to intact plants.

It should be recognized that the amount of expression, as well as the tissue specificity of expression of the *plPAC* gene in transformed plants can vary depending on the position of their insertion into the nuclear genome. Such position effects are well known in the art. For this reason, several nuclear transformants should be regenerated and tested for expression of the transgene.

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IV. Uses of PIPAC Nucleic Acids, Encoded Proteins and Antibodies

1. PIPAC Nucleic Acids

of purposes in accordance with the present invention.

The DNA, RNA, or fragments thereof may be used as probes to detect the presence of and/or expression of plPAC genes. Methods in which plPAC nucleic acids may be utilized as probes for such assays include, but are not limited to: (1) in situ hybridization; (2) Southern hybridization (3) northern hybridization; and (4) assorted amplification reactions such as polymerase chain reactions (PCR).

The pIPAC nucleic acids of the invention may also be utilized as probes to identify related genes from other plant species. As is well known in the art and described above, hybridization stringencies may be adjusted to allow hybridization of nucleic acid probes with complementary sequences of varying degrees of homology. Thus, pIPAC nucleic acids may be used to advantage to identify and characterize other genes of varying degrees of relation to the exemplary ATPAC, thereby enabling further characterization of this family

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of genes in plants. Additionally, they may be used to identify genes encoding proteins that interact with the P-glycoprotein encoded by *plPAC* (e.g., by the "interaction trap" technique).

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2. PlPAC Proteins and Antibodies

Purified plPAC-encoded P-glycoproteins, or fragments thereof, may be used to produce polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies which also may serve as sensitive detection reagents for the presence and accumulation of plant P-glycoproteins in cultured plant cells or tissues and in intact plants. Recombinant techniques enable expression of fusion proteins containing part or all of the plPAC-encoded protein. The full length protein or fragments of the protein may be used to advantage to generate an array of monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies specific for various epitopes of the protein, thereby providing even greater sensitivity for detection of the protein in cells or tissue.

Polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies immunologically specific for pIPAC-encoded proteins may be used in a variety of assays designed to detect and quantitate the protein. Such assays include, but are not limited to: (1) flow cytometric analysis; (2) immunochemical localization in cultured cells or tissues; and (3) immunoblot analysis (e.g., dot blot, Western blot) of extracts from various cells and tissues.

Polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies that immunospecifically interact with one or more of the polypeptides encoded by plPAC can be utilized for identifying and purifying such proteins. For example, antibodies may be utilized for affinity separation of proteins with which they immunospecifically interact. Antibodies may also be used to immunoprecipitate proteins

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from a sample containing a mixture of proteins and other biological molecules.

3. plPAC Transgenic Plants

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Transgenic plants that over- or under- express plPAC can be used in a varied of agronomic and research applications. From the foregoing discussion, it can be seen that plPAC and its homologs, and transgenic plants containing them will be useful for improving stress resistance or tolerance in plants. This provides an avenue for developing marginal or toxic soil environments for crop production. Both over- and under-expressing plPAC transgenic plants have great utility in the research of herbicides and other xenobiotic compounds.

As discussed above and in greater detail in Example 1, the similarity between plant and mammalian mdr genes indicates that their functional aspects will also be conserved. Thus, plPAC is expected to play an important role in the exclusion of toxic metabolic or xenobiotic compounds from cells. The fact that plPAC also is inducible and appears to be preferentially expressed in roots, where contact with such compounds often occurs, makes plPAC particularly desirable for genetic engineering of plants to increase their tolerance to such compounds. Accordingly, plants engineered to overexpress the pIPAC gene should be resistant to a wide range of chemicals, both intentionally applied as herbicides or unintentionally as wastes. Examples of the kinds of xenobiotics that should be detoxified by the plPAC of the invention include, but are not limited to, hydrophobic (i.e., lipophilic) herbicides and other compounds, such as 3(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1, dimethyl urea (also known as DCMU or Diuron, available from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) or other hydrophobic

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compounds that disrupt photosynthetic electron transport, as well as Metachlor (Ciba Geigy, Basel Switzerland), Taurocholate (Sigma Chemical Co.), Primisulfuron (Ciba Geigy), and IRL-1803.

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As illustrated in Example 2, plant cells that over-express a pIPAC gene have surprisingly higher growth rate with or without the xenobiotic compound Rhodamine 6G. It is contemplated that pIPAC overexpression may be a generally useful way to increase plant and plant cell culture growth, even without the presence of xenobiotic compounds.

The following specific examples are provided to illustrate embodiments of the invention. They are not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way.

EXAMPLE 1 Cloning and Analysis of a PlPAC From Arabidopsis thaliana

The pIPAC of the present invention was identified by its up-regulation in response to a chloride ion channel blocker. Brassica napus plants were grown either in the presence or absence of 20 µM 5-nitro-2-(3-phenylpropylamino) benzoic acid (NPPB). After five days, the roots of the seedlings were harvested and total RNA was extracted separately from the treated and untreated plants. From the total RNA preparations, poly (A)+ RNA was isolated and used as the starting material to create a cDNA subtraction library, using the CLONTECH PCR-SELECT™ cDNA Subtraction Kit and accompanying instructions (CLONTECH Laboratories, Inc., Palo Alto, CA).

Using the subtractive hybridization kit, a gene fragment was identified that was up-regulated in response to treatment of the plants with NPPB. This fragment (0.5 kb) was used to screen a cDNA library of Arabidopsis thaliana, from which a full-length cDNA clone was isolated. The nucleotide sequence of this cDNA clone, referred to as ATPAC (Arabidopsis thaliana putative anion channel) is set forth below as SEQ ID NO:1.

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The 3.76 kb cDNA clone encodes a polypeptide

1,254 amino acids in length. The deduced amino acid
sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:1 is shown in Figure 1 as
"atpac" (SEQ ID NO:2), in a lineup with the following
sequences: (1) hmdr1 (SEQ ID NO:3); (2) mmdr1 (SEQ ID
NO:4); (3) hmdr3 (SEQ ID NO:5); (4) mmdr2 (SEQ ID NO:6);

(5) atpgp1 (SEQ ID NO:7); and (6) atpgp2 (SEQ ID NO:8).
A consensus sequence (SEQ ID NO:9) is also shown.

A search of various sequence databases indicates that ATPAC is a new and distinct member of the mdr family of ABC transporters. In none of the databases, including the EST collection, does an exact match exist. The ABC transporter family is very large, consisting of at least two sub-groups, mrp and homologs and mdr and homologs. The only examples of plant mdrlike genes are atpgp1 and atpgp2 from A. thaliana and two homologs from potato and barley, respectively. Though . the atpgp1 and atpgp2 genes are similar to ATPAC, they are only 51 and 50% identical, respectively, indicating that ATPAC is a distinct gene by comparison. Sequence homology with the potato and barley mdr-like genes is even more divergent. Another difference between the agpgp1 gene and the ATPAC gene is their respective preferential expression in inflorescens and roots, respectively.

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EXAMPLE 2 Effect of ATPAC Expression in Bacterial Cells on Their Ability to Detoxify Rhodamine 6G

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The compound Rhodamine 6G is a well known substrate of mammalian p-glycoproteins (Kolaczkowski et al., J. Biol. Chem. <u>271</u>: 31543-31548, 1996). The ability 10 of a cell to detoxify the compound is indicative of activity of p-glycoproteins. A bacterial cell line was transformed with an expression vector comprising ATPAC. The growth rate of transformed and non-transformed cells was then measured, in the presence or absence of 15 Rhodamine 6G. Results are shown in Figure 2. As can be seen, ATPAC-expressing cells grown in the absence of the drug had the best growth rate. Moreover, even in the presence of the drug, the cells grew more quickly than non-transformed cells in the presence or absence of Rhodamine 6G. These results demonstrate that ATPAC 20 encodes a functional and robust p-glycoprotein.

Example 3 Transgenic Plants the Overexpress and Underexpress ATPAC

binary vector pPZP211 (Hajdukiewicz et al., 1994 Plant Mol. Biol. 25:989-994) was digested with EcoRI and SmaI, and self-ligated. This molecule was named pPZP211'. The Agrobacterium binary vector pCGN7366 (Calgene, CA) was digested with XhoI and cloned in SalI-digested pPZP211'. We named this binary vector pPZP-PCGN. The 3.8 kb full-length ATPAC cDNA was cloned into the pGH19 vector. After digestion with SmaI (in the multiple cloning site upstream) and EcoRI, a 3.1 kb cDNA fragment was cut out.

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This SmaI-EcoRI 3.1 kb fragment was cloned into the SmaI/EcoRI site of pPZP-pCGN. The rest of ATPAC gene was amplified using polymerase chain reaction to have translationally fused HA-tag at its 3'-terminal. After ligating EcoRI linkers to the ends of the resulting PCR product, the 0.7 kb fragment was cloned into the EcoRI site of the SmaI-EcoRI 3.1 kb ATPAC fragment in pPZP-pCGN. The final construct was named pATPAC-OE.

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Plant transformation. pATPAC-OE was introduced into Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain by a direct transformation method. Agrobacterium-mediated transformation was performed using vacuum infiltration (Bechtold et al., 1993,. CR Acad. Sci. [III] 316: 1194-1199.)

T1 plants which survived on kanamycin-containing plates were selected, transplanted into soil and grown to set T2 seed. T3 seeds were collected from kanamycin-resistant T2 plants. T3 plants which showed 100% kanamycin-resistance were selected and were considered homozygous for the transgene.

Antisense Plants. The full length cDNA in pBluescript SK(-) vector (Stratagene, CA) is digested with EcoRI (there is a cleavage site in the upstream polylinker) and SspI. The resulting 1.3 Kb fragment representing a 5' portion of the AtPAC cDNA was cloned into the aforementioned pPZP-PCGN, which had been digested with EcoRI/SmaI, ensuring that this fragment of the cDNA was inserted in the antisense orientation. This construct was named pATPAC-AE. pATPAC-AE was introduced into Arabidopsis plants by Agrobacterium transformation, as described above.

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Knock-out Plants. The method of Krysan et al (1996, PNAS 93:8145, incorporated by reference herein) was followed using the following primers:

Gene-specific primers:

AtpacF: CACTGCTCAATGATCTCGTTTTCTCACTA (SEQ ID NO:11)
AtpacR: CTTGAATCACACCAATGCAATCAACACCTC (SEQ ID NO:12)
Primers for T-DNA left boarder:

JL202: CATTTTATAATAACGCTGCGGACATCTAC (SEQ ID NO:13) JL270: TTTCTCCATATTGACCATCATACTCATTG (SEQ ID NO:14)

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While certain of the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described and specifically exemplified above, it is not intended that the invention be limited to such embodiments. Various modifications may be made thereto without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention, as set forth in the following claims.

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What is claimed:

 A nucleic acid isolated from a plant, which encodes a p-glycoprotein that is inducible by exposure of the plant to NPPB.

2. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, which is preferentially expressed in plant roots upon exposure of the plant to NPPB.

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3. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Brassica napus* and *Arabidopsis thaliana* and is 3850-4150 nucleotides long.

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- 4. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, which has the restriction sites shown in Figure 4 for at least three enzymes.
- 5. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 4, which encodes a polypeptide having SEQ ID NO:2.
- 6. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 5, which is a cDNA comprising a coding region selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:10.
 - 7. An isolated protein, which is a product of expression of part or all of the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

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- 8. Antibodies immunologically specific for the protein of claim 7.
 - 9. A expression cassette, which comprises a

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plPAC gene coding sequence operably linked to a promoter.

10. The expression cassette of claim 9, which comprises a plPAC gene from Arabidopsis thaliana.

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- 11. The expression cassette of claim 10, in which the promoter is the cauliflower mosaic virus 35S promoter.
- 10 12. The expression cassette of claim 10, in which the *plPAC* gene is part or all of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10.
- 13. A vector comprising the expression15 cassette of claim 9.
 - 14. The vector of claim 13, which is comprised of an *Agrobacterium* binary vector selected from the group consisting of pPZP211 and pCGN7366.

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15. A method for producing a plant with enhanced resistance to xenobiotic compounds by transforming *in vitro* the plant with the expression cassette of claim 9.

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- 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the transformation step further uses the vector of claim 13.
- 17. A transgenic plant produced by the method 30 of claim 15.
 - 18. A reproductive unit form the transgenic plant of claim 17.

- 35 -

19. A cell from the transgenic plant of claim17.

- 20. A recombinant DNA molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, operably linked to a vector for transforming cells.
 - 21. A cell transformed with the recombinant DNA molecule of claim 20.

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- 22. The cell of claim 21, selected from the group consisting of bacterial cells, yeast cells and plant cells.
- 23. A transgenic plant regenerated from the transformed cell of claim 22.
- 24. An isolated nucleic acid molecule of at least 20 nucleotides in length having a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:10;
 - b) a nucleic acid sequence that is at least about 60% homologous to the coding regions of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10;
- c) a sequence hybridizing with SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10 at moderate stringency;
 - d) a sequence encoding part or all of a polypeptide having SEQ ID NO:2;
 - e) a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least about 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:2;
 - f) a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least about 80% similar to SEQ ID NO:2;
 - g) a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least about 40% similar to residues 1-76, 613-

- 36 -

669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

h) a sequence hybridizing at moderate stringency to a sequence encoding residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2.

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- 25. A polypeptide produced by expression of the nucleic acid sequence of claim 24.
- 26. Antibodies immunologically specific for the polypeptide of claim 24.
- 27. An oligonucleotide between about 10 and about 100 nucleotides in length, which specifically hybridizes at moderate stringency with a portion of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 24.
 - 28. A recombinant DNA molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, operably linked to a vector for transforming cells.

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- $\,$ 29. A cell transformed with the recombinant DNA molecule of claim 28.
- 30. The cell of claim 29, selected from the group consisting of bacterial cells, yeast cells and plant cells.
 - 31. A transgenic plant regenerated from the cell of claim 30.

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- 32. An isolated plant p-glycoprotein, which is inducible upon exposure of the plant to NPPB.
 - 33. The p-glycoprotein of claim 32, which

- 37 -

confers upon a cell in which it is found resistance to Rhodamine 6G.

- 34. The p-glycoprotein of claim 33, which is preferentially produced in roots upon the exposure to the NPPB.
- 35. The p-glycoprotein of claim 34, from a plant selected from the group consisting of Brassica napus and Arabidopsis thaliana.
 - 36. The p-glycoprotein of claim 35, having an amino acid sequence that selected from the group consisting of:
- a) an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% similar to SEO ID NO:2;
 - b) an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:2;
- c) an amino acid sequence that is at least 40% similar to residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - d) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid sequence hybridizing at moderate stringency to a amino acid sequence encoding residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2.
 - 37. Antibodies immunologically specific for the p-glycoprotein of claim 32.
- 38 The antibodies of claim 35, that are immunologically specific to residues 1-76, 613-669 or 1144-1161 of SEQ ID NO:2.

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39. A plant p-glycoprotein gene promoter which

- 38 -

is inducible by NPPB.

- 40. The plant p-glycoprotein gene promoter of claim 39, that is part or all of residues 1-3429 of SEQ ID NO:10.
 - 41. A plant with reduced levels of plPAC protein.
- 10 42. The plant of claim 41, wherein the native plPAC gene is mutated.
 - 43. The plant of claim 42, wherein the plPAC gene is mutated due to the insertion of a T-DNA.

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- 44. A method for making the plant of claim 42, wherein a population of mutated plants are screened using at least one of SEQ ID NOS:11-14 as PCR primers.
- 20 45. The method of claim 44, wherein the population of plants is mutated by T-DNA insertion.

Figure 1 (sheet 1 of 4)

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N (sheet Figure

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Figure 1 (sheet 4 of 4)

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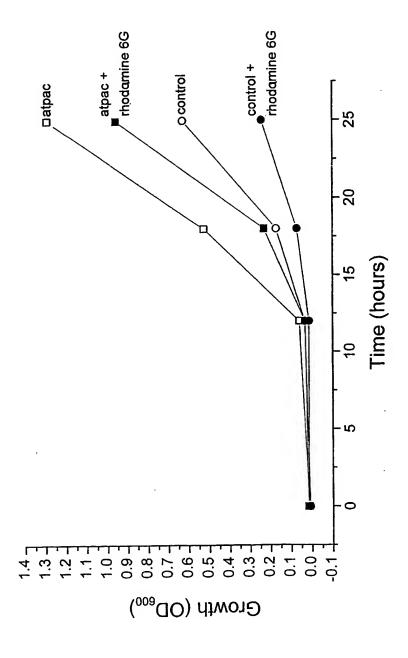


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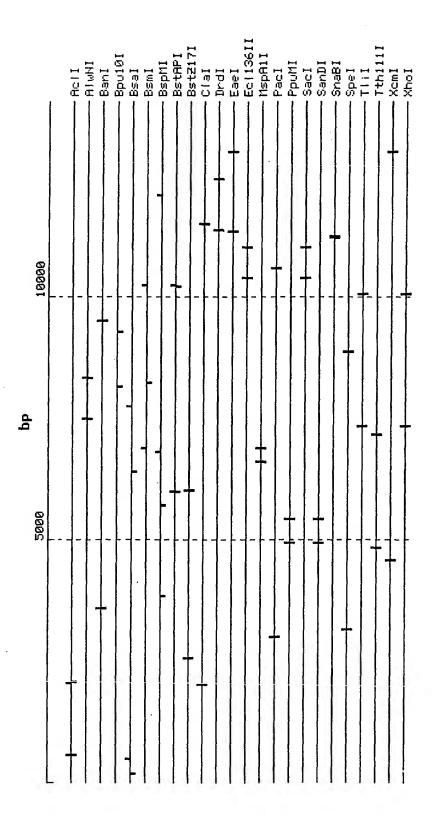


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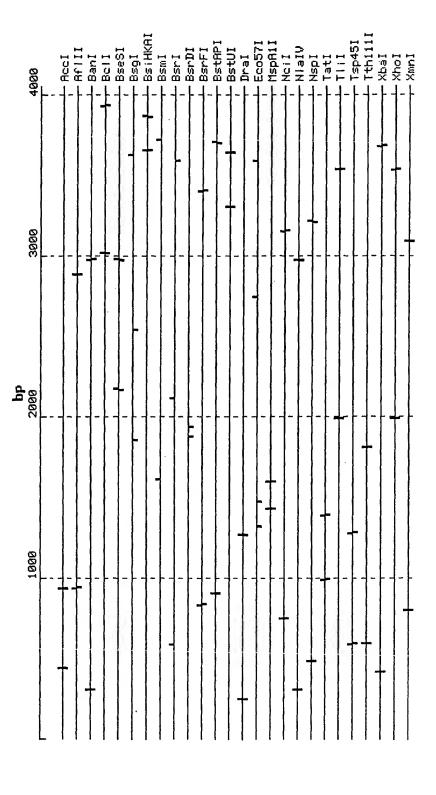


Figure 4

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Ala 705	Ile	Val	Met	Ser	Asn 710		Ile	Glu	Val	Phe 715		Tyr	Thr	Asp	Tyr 720
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945					950					955				Val	960
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		Gly		Ala	Val	Clu									GIn
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Pro 1025 His	Gly 1010 Asp 5 Ser	995 Asp 0 Val Gln	Asp Ile Met Ala	Pro Glu Val Leu 104	Asp Phe Phe 103 Val	Asp Arg 101! Arg 0 Gly	Ala 1000 His Asp Ala	985 Asp Val Phe	Ala Asp Asn Gly 1056	Asp Phe Leu 103: Ser	Pro Ala 1020 Arg 5 Gly	Val 1005 Tyr) Ile Lys	990 Glu Pro Arg	Thr Ser Ala Ser 105	Ile Arg Gly 1040 Val
Pro 1025 His	Gly 1010 Asp Ser Ala	995 Asp O Val Gln Met	Asp Ile Met Ala Ile 106	Pro Glu Val Leu 104 Glu	Asp Phe Phe 103 Val 5 Arg	Asp Arg 101! Arg O Gly	Ala 1000 His Asp Ala Tyr	985 Asp Val Phe Ser Asp	Ala Asp Asn Gly 1050 Leu	Asp Phe Leu 103: Ser Leu Leu	Pro Ala 1020 Arg Gly Ala	Val 1005 Tyr) Ile Lys Gly	990 Glu Pro Arg Ser Lys	Thr Ser Ala Ser 1055 Val	Arg Gly 1040 Val Met
Pro 1025 His Ile	Gly 1010 Asp 5 Ser Ala Asp	995 Asp Val Gln Met Gly 107	Asp Ile Met Ala Ile 106 Lys	Pro Glu Val Leu 104 Glu 0 Asp	Asp Phe Phe 103 Val S Arg	Asp Arg 101: Arg Gly Phe	Ala 1000 His 5 Asp Ala Tyr Arg 108	985 Asp Val Phe Ser Asp 106 Leu	Ala Asp Asn Gly 1050 Leu 5 Asn	Asp Phe Leu 1039 Ser Leu Leu	Pro Ala 1020 Arg Gly Ala Lys	Val 1005 Tyr) Ile Lys Gly Ser 1085	990 Glu Pro Arg Ser Lys 1079 Leu	Thr Ser Ala Ser 1055 Val O Arg	Arg Gly 1040 Val Met Leu
Pro 1023 His Ile Ile Lys	Gly 1010 Asp 5 Ser Ala Asp Ile 109	995 Asp O Val Gln Met Gly 107 Gly	Asp Ile Met Ala Ile 106 Lys Lys	Pro Glu Val Leu 104 Glu 0 Asp	Asp Phe Phe 103 Val 5 Arg Ile Gln	Asp Arg 101: Arg Gly Phe Arg Gln 109	Ala 1000 His Asp Ala Tyr Arg 1080 Glu	985 Asp Val Phe Ser Asp 106 Leu Pro	Ala Asp Asn Gly 1050 Leu 5 Asn Ala	Asp Phe Leu 103! Ser Leu Leu Leu	Ala 1020 Arg Gly Ala Lys Phe 1100	Val 1005 Tyr Ile Lys Gly Ser 1085 Ala	990 Glu Pro Arg Ser Lys 1070 Leu Ala	Thr Ser Ala Ser 1055 Val	Arg Gly 1040 Val Met Leu Ile

5.

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Ile Asp Ala Ala Arg Ala Ala Asn Ala His Gly Phe Ile Ser Gly Leu
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Pro Glu Gly Tyr Lys Thr Pro Val Gly Glu Arg Gly Val Gln Leu Ser
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Pro Thr Val Leu Leu Asp Glu Ala Thr Ser Ala Leu Asp Ala Glu
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Ser Glu Cys Val Leu Gln Glu Ala Leu Glu Arg Leu Met Arg Gly Arg
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Thr Thr Val Val Val Ala His Arg Leu Ser Thr Ile Arg Gly Val Asp
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Cys Ile Gly Val Ile Gln Asp Gly Arg Ile Val Glu Gln Gly Ser His
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Asp Ile Asn Asp Thr Gly Phe Phe Met Asn Leu Glu Glu Asp Met Thr
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Arg Tyr Ala Tyr Tyr Tyr Ser Gly Ile Gly Ala Gly Val Leu Val Ala
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                                  140
His Lys Ile Arg Lys Gln Phe Phe His Ala Ile Met Arg Gln Glu Ile
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                               155
Gly Trp Phe Asp Val His Asp Val Gly Glu Leu Asn Thr Arg Leu Thr
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                            170
Asp Asp Val Ser Lys Ile Asn Glu Val Ile Gly Asp Lys Ile Gly Met
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Phe Phe Gln Ser Met Ala Thr Phe Phe Thr Gly Phe Ile Val Gly Phe
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Thr Arg Gly Trp Lys Leu Thr Leu Val Ile Leu Ala Ile Ser Pro Val
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Leu Gly Leu Ser Ala Ala Val Trp Ala Lys Ile Leu Ser Ser Phe Thr
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Asp Lys Glu Leu Leu Ala Tyr Ala Lys Ala Gly Ala Val Ala Glu Glu
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Thr	Phe		Leu	Gln	Gly	Phe 775	Thr	Phe	Gly	Lys	Ala 780	Gly	Glu	Ile	Leu
Thr 785		Arg	Leu	Arg	Tyr 790		Val	Phe	Arg	Ser 795	Met	Leu	Arg	Gln	Asp 800
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				1045	5				1050)				Gly 1055	5
			1060)				1065	5				1070		
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	1090)		_		1095	5				1100	3		Arg	
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	1170)				1175	5				118	0		Arg	
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Arg	Leu	Ser 123	_	Ile	Gln	Asn	Ala 124		Leu	Ile	Val	Val 124		Gln	Asn

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375 Asn Ile Arg Tyr Gly Arg Glu Asp Val Thr Met Asp Glu Ile Glu Lys 390 395 Ala Val Lys Glu Ala Asn Ala Tyr Asp Phe Ile Met Lys Leu Pro His 410 405 Gln Phe Asp Thr Leu Val Gly Glu Arg Gly Ala Gln Leu Ser Gly Gly 430 425 420 Gln Lys Gln Arg Ile Ala Ile Ala Arg Ala Leu Val Arg Asn Pro Lys 445 440 435 Ile Leu Leu Leu Asp Glu Ala Thr Ser Ala Leu Asp Thr Glu Ser Glu 460 455 Ala Val Val Gln Ala Ala Leu Asp Lys Ala Arg Glu Gly Arg Thr Thr 470 475 Ile Val Ile Ala His Arg Leu Ser Thr Val Arg Asn Ala Asp Val Ile 490 485 Ala Gly Phe Asp Gly Gly Val Ile Val Glu Gln Gly Asn His Asp Glu 505 500 Leu Met Arg Glu Lys Gly Ile Tyr Phe Lys Leu Val Met Thr Gln Thr 515 520 525 Arg Gly Asn Glu Ile Glu Pro Gly Asn Asn Ala Tyr Gly Ser Gln Ser 535 540 Asp Thr Asp Ala Ser Glu Leu Thr Ser Glu Glu Ser Lys Ser Pro Leu 550 555 Ile Arg Arg Ser Ile Tyr Arg Ser Val His Arg Lys Gln Asp Gln Glu 570 565 Arg Arg Leu Ser Met Lys Glu Ala Val Asp Glu Asp Val Pro Leu Val 590 585 580 Ser Phe Trp Arg Ile Leu Asn Leu Asn Leu Ser Glu Trp Pro Tyr Leu 605 600 595 Leu Val Gly Val Leu Cys Ala Val Ile Asn Gly Cys Ile Gln Pro Val 620 615 Phe Ala Ile Val Phe Ser Arg Ile Val Gly Val Phe Ser Arg Asp Asp 635 630 Asp His Glu Thr Lys Arg Gln Asn Cys Asn Leu Phe Ser Leu Phe Phe 650 645 Leu Val Met Gly Leu Ile Ser Phe Val Thr Tyr Phe Phe Gln Gly Phe 665 670 660 Thr Phe Gly Lys Ala Gly Glu Ile Leu Thr Lys Arg Val Arg Tyr Met 680 Val Phe Lys Ser Met Leu Arg Gln Asp Ile Ser Trp Phe Asp Asp His 700 695 Lys Asn Ser Thr Gly Ser Leu Thr Thr Arg Leu Ala Ser Asp Ala Ser 710 715 720 Ser Val Lys Gly Ala Met Gly Ala Arg Leu Ala Val Val Thr Gln Asn 725 730 735 Val Ala Asn Leu Gly Thr Gly Val Ile Leu Ser Leu Val Tyr Gly Trp 745 Gln Leu Thr Leu Leu Leu Val Val Ile Ile Pro Leu Ile Val Leu Gly 760 765 755 Gly Ile Ile Glu Met Lys Leu Leu Ser Gly Gln Ala Leu Lys Asp Lys 780 775 Lys Gln Leu Glu Ile Ser Gly Lys Ile Ala Thr Glu Ala Ile Glu Asn 795 790 Phe Arg Thr Ile Val Ser Leu Thr Arg Glu Gln Lys Phe Glu Thr Met 805 810 Tyr Ala Gln Ser Leu Gln Val Pro Tyr Arg Asn Ala Met Lys Lys Ala 820 825 830 His Val Phe Gly Ile Thr Phe Ser Phe Thr Gln Ala Met Met Tyr Phe 840 845 835 Ser Tyr Ala Ala Cys Phe Arg Phe Gly Ala Tyr Leu Val Ala Gln Gln 855 Leu Met Thr Phe Glu Asn Val Met Leu Val Phe Ser Ala Val Val Phe

10

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Pro Glu Ile Asp Ser Tyr Ser Thr Glu Gly Leu Lys Pro Thr Leu Leu
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                              925
Glu Gly Asn Val Lys Phe Asn Gly Val Gln Phe Asn Tyr Pro Thr Arg
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                          940
Pro Asn Ile Pro Val Leu Gln Gly Leu Ser Leu Glu Val Lys Lys Gly
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Gln Thr Leu Ala Leu Val Gly Ser Ser Gly Cys Gly Lys Ser Thr Val
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Val Gln Leu Leu Glu Arg Phe Tyr Asp Pro Met Ala Gly Ser Val Phe
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Glu Ile Val Arg Ala Ala Lys Glu Ala Asn Ile His Gln Phe Ile Asp
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Ser Leu Pro Asp Lys Tyr Asn Thr Arg Val Gly Asp Lys Gly Thr Gln
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Leu Ser Gly Gly Gln Lys Gln Arg Ile Ala Ile Ala Arg Ala Leu Val
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Arg Gln Pro His Ile Leu Leu Leu Asp Glu Ala Thr Ser Ala Leu Asp
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Gly Arg Thr Cys Ile Val Ile Ala His Arg Leu Ser Thr Ile Gln Asn
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Val Val Gln Leu Leu Glu Arg Phe Tyr Asp Pro Leu Ala Gly Thr Val
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Gly Gly Lys Ser Phe Thr Thr Met Leu Asn Val Val Ile Ala Gly Leu

200

215

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170

190

205

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785 790 795 800
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gaattetate	ttctgcattt	tgttaccatt	catataaaaq	tattgtttta	gttgtgctgc	13740
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27

ggtttaagtc ct aaactctaag ag aacttagaaa ga ctttgtattg at tccaaaaaac aa	gaatataag ataacaaaa ccattattg	atcaatgtgt gtaagaacga	aattaataaa gtattttaa	ttttatagtc gcgaatactc	attcggataa tttagatatt	13800 13860 13920 13980 14000
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International application No.
PCT/US99/22363

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER							
IPC(6) :Please See Extra Sheet. US CL :Please See Extra Sheet.							
According to	According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC						
	Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)						
U.S. : 8	800/278, 294, 300; 435/69.1, 71.2, 468, 419, 252.3; 3	120.1; 536/23.6, 24.1					
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched							
Electronic d	Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)						
Please Sce Extra Sheet.							
C. DOC	C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT						
Category*	* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to c						
x	DUDLER ET AL. Structure of an mdr-like Gene from Arabidopsis 24, 29-30 thaliana. The Journal of Biological Chemistry. March 1992, Vol.						
Y	267, No. 9, pages 5882-5888, see pag	•	1-6				
	, 10						
Y	Y CHO et al. An Anion Channel in Arabidopsis Hypocotyls Activited						
	by Blue Light. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci						
	pages 8134-8138, see page 8134.						
x	EMYR DAVIES et al. Cloning and Cl	haracterization of a Novel P-	24, 29-30				
	Glycoprotein Homologue from Barley						
Y	pages 195-202, see whole document.		1-6				
	·		·				
X Furth	er documents are listed in the continuation of Box C	See patent family annex.					
	scial categories of cited documents: cument defining the general state of the art which is not considered	"T" later document published after the inte date and not in conflict with the appl	ication but cited to understand				
	be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; th					
	lier document published on or after the international filing date cument which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is	considered novel or cannot be considered when the document is taken alone					
cite	od to establish the publication date of another citation or other scial reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; th					
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *		considered to involve an inventive combined with one or more other suc- being obvious to a person skilled in t	documents, such combination				
	rument published prior to the international filing date but later than, priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same pater	family				
Date of the	actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international sea	rch report				
23 DECEMBER 1999		27 JAN	2000				
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Authorized of Ident MEDINA K. IBRAHIM		lles las					
Washington, D.C. 20231		Telephone No. (703) 308-0196	7				
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International application No.
PCT/US99/22363

C(Continue	tion). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P Y,P	SIDLER et al. Involvement of an ABC Transporter in a Developmental Pathway Regulating Hypocotyl Cell Elongation in the Light. The Plant Cell. October 1998, Vol. 10, pages 1623-1636, see pages 1623 and 1629-1634.	24, 28-31
Y	TOMMASINI et al. Differential Expression of Genes Coding for ABC Transporters after Treatment of Arabidopsis thaliana with Xenobiotics. FEBS Letters. May 1997, Vol. 411, pages 206-210, see page 206.	1-6, 24
A	US 5,786, 162 A (CORBISIER et al) 28 July 1998, see whole document.	1-6, 9-24, 28-31
A	US 5,073,677 A (HELMER et al) 17. December 1991, see whole document.	1-6, 9-24, 28-31
	*	

International application No. PCT/US99/22363

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please Sec Extra Sheet.
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. X No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-6, 9-24, 28-31
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

International application No. PCT/US99/22363

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER: IPC (6):

C12N 5/04, 15/00, 15/09, 15/11, 15/29, 15/63, 15/74, 15/81, 15/82; A01H 5/00

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER: US CL:

800/278, 294, 300; 435/69.1, 71.2, 468, 419, 252.3, 320.1; 536/23.6, 24.1

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

DIALOG, WEST1.2a

SEARCH TERMS: MDR-LIKE GENES, P-GLYCOPROTEIN GENES, ARABIDOPSIS, NPPB, XENOBIOTIC, RESISTANT PLANTS. ABC TRANSPORTER, APPGP1 EXPRESSION, TRANSGENIC PLANT

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s)1-6, 9-24, 28-31, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid in a recombinant expression cassette, a vector comprising it, a transgenic plant, and a method for producing a plant with enhanced resistance to xenobiotic compounds. Group II, claim(s) 7-8, 25-26, 32-38, drawn to an isolated protein and antibodies for the protein.

Group III, claim(s) 27, drawn to an oligonucleotide.

Group IV, claim(s) 39-40, drawn to P-glycoprotein gene promoter.

Group V, claim(s) 41-45, drawn to a plant with mutated pIPAC gene and a method of making it.

The inventions listed as Groups I-V do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The claimed isolated nucleic acid molecules and transformed cells are anticipated by each of Dudler et al, Emyr Davis et al, and Sidler et al, as set forth in the Search Report, and so do not constitute a single special technical feature which would be an advance over the prior art.

The invention of Group I, drawn to a first product and process of use, requires an isolated nucleic acid encoding P-glycoprotein, a vector, host cells, and a method for plant transformation and regeneration not required by any other group.

The invention of Group II, drawn to a second product, requires an isolated polypeptide and antibodies for the polypeptide not required by any other group.

The invention of Group III, drawn to a third product, requires an oligonucleotide and a hybridization technique not required by any other group.

The invention of Group IV, drawn to a fourth product, requires a specific gene promoter not required by any other group.

The invention of Group V, drawn to a fifth product and method of use, requires a plant with mutated plPAC gene and a method of making it not required by any other group.